

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 00911 031249 Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 PM-09 L-03 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00

AGR-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /135 W
----- 092625

R 030800 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6887

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMA KO 911

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ML

SUBJECT: MALI'S AIRLIFT OF GRAIN

1. THREE GERMAN AIR FORCE PLANES (C-160' S) LEFT TODAY FOR GERMANY AFTER THREE WEEKS OF AIRLIFTING JUST UNDER 500 TONS OF GRAIN FROM BAMA KO TO REMOTE MALIAN TOWNS OF BINTUKTU, GOUNDAM AND NIORO. TWO PLANES ARRIVED MARCH 14 AND THE THIRD ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. GERMAN AMBASSADOR CONSIDERS AIRLIFT A POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUCCESS BUT TECHNICALLY DISAPPOINTING. GERMAN PLANES WERE PLAGUED WITH BREAKDOWNS AND IN HIS VIEW GERMAN CREWS MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE HAULAGE.

2. SOVIET PLANE (ANTONOV-12) ALSO DEPARTING TODAY AFTER COMPLETION ROUGHLY THREE WEEKS' AIRLIFT. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER ANTONOV-12 WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, WHICH ACCORDING TO SOVIET COUNSELOR WILL REMAIN HERE UP TO TWO MORE MONTHS. SOVIET PLANE, WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN OPERATING PRINCIPALLY TO GAO BUT ALSO ON OCCASION TO BOUREM AND TESSALIT, HAS SO FAR ONLY HAULED JUST OVER 500 TONS. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ADMITS THIS TONNAGE IS DROP-IN-BUCKET COMPARED WITH SIXTH REGION'S NEEDS AND HOPES TO STEP UP SOVIET HAUL. HE SAYS SOVIET AIRLIFT IS CHEAPEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION TAKEN BY SOVIETS IN WEST AFRICA IN YEARS.

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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 00911 031249 Z

3. BOTH GERMAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS TOLD ME THAT MALIAN
SUPPORT OF AIRLIFT IS OUTSRA 01390 031256 Z

3. COMPLETED REVISIONS WERE TO BE PUBLISHED BY SERBIAN AUTHORITIES
THIS MONTH, HOWEVER, GOY INTERVENED TWO WEEKS AGO DECLARING PRO-
POSED REVISION BE REVIEWED BY OTHER REPUBLICS AND NEW LAW APPLIED
UNIFORMLY COUNTRY- WIDE. AS THIS COULD BE LONG, TEDIOUS PROCESS,
UNCERTAIN WHEN WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE ACCEPTABLE LONG- TERM-
LEASE
PROPOSALS.

4. WHILE EMBASSY REGRETS SITUATION OUTLINED ABOVE PRECLUDES POS-
ITIVE ACTION AT THIS TIME PARAS 1 THRU 3 REFTEL, URGENT NEED
DOES EXIST ADDITIONAL FUNDS CITED PARA 4. NOW ASSEMBLING LIST
MOST URGENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESERVATION AND UP- DATING FBO AND
PRESENT LTL PROPERTIES WHICH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH PL-480
DINARS. INFO FOLLOWS ASAP.
TOON

UNCLASSIFIED

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